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C O N F I D E N T I A L

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

21 October 1955

Present

Members: John Lacey, State
Richard Bauer, Army
LTJG William C. Nyce, Navy
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Consultants:

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1. The 57th meeting convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 56th meeting were approved with the following emendations and comments:

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restated the CIA position on subjects not now being covered by FDD as one of interest across the board. The Agency, however, wished to defer its endorsement of manpower recommendations.

Mr. Lacey felt that the substance of the State Department viewpoint had been adequately reported in the minutes of the previous meeting. With regard to the format and presentation of the minutes, however, he recommended a return to the use of letter-size paper, and a departure from the mixture of quotation and paraphrase in reporting subcommittee members' comments.

Mr. Lacey feared that some misconception of State Department's requirements might still exist, and he proposed to restate them for the record. He agreed that political news at the national level was well covered by other sources and for this reason State was not interested in an exploitation of the central press. But the political news at the provincial and local levels is not adequately reported and here periodicals and the provincial press offer a unique source of information.

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The State Department looks to FDD for coverage of this type of information. Moreover, here is a field in which there is small chance of duplicating FBIS.

The State Department understands that its requirements in terms of the FDD program have been stated periodically. In addition to these standing requirements, specific formal requirements have from time to time been levied on FDD, all are evidence of State's interest in FDD.

In conclusion, Mr. Lacey expressed an opinion that FDD may prefer to work on economic requirements, since economic information is easier to extract and results in more pieces of paper. Collating the essence of political information is admittedly more difficult, but the end product is more desirable than a flood of single items.

2. USSR and East Europe continued

Navy: Lt. Nyce asked what coverage of Eastern Europe was afforded by provincial newspapers received in FDD. Mr. Kreeger replied that coverage varied from country to country. In the case of Poland, newspapers are available from all provinces, while from Rumania, only the Bucharest newspapers have been received.

Army: Mr. Bauer, presenting the Department of Army's recommendations, stated that the need is apparent for additional manpower to exploit publications from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland for military information. Each of those countries require one person assigned full-time to provide adequate coverage of available publications. The publications of East Germany, too, might in the near future require a greater exploitation effort, and it was conceivable that in this new era of sweetness and light military publications may become available from Hungary and Rumania, necessitating the application of more exploitation manpower to those countries. Mr. Bauer also felt that the exploitation of military information deserved the same emphasis and specialization as that afforded the exploitation of scientific information in FDD.

His second request was that FDD undertake to list at the beginning of its reports the publications regularly exploited for the reports, a service which he believed would be useful to analysts.

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His third recommendation was that the OO-W report featuring highlights of military information derived from Soviet press exploitation be expanded to include more of the significant military information which is now published monthly in the FDD publication Soviet Military Information

25X9 [redacted] and other Publications, thus achieving more rapid dissemination of the best information.

Mr. Bauer also mentioned that G-2 is reorganizing its files in accord with NIS outlines, a development which FDD might consider in its exploitation of foreign language publications.

Lt. Nyce, Navy, and Mr. Lacey, State, stated that their respective departments follow the NIS outlines and find them quite adequate.

Army: Continuing his comments on the FDD Eastern Europe program, Mr. Bauer said that while the current program conforms in breadth with Army requirements, it lacks considerably in depth, particularly in coverage of the provincial press.

He also urged inclusion in FDD reports of the original foreign terminology wherever the interpretation of a term is open to question, and requested specifically that the ranks of officers be reported in the original language, particularly in the Satellite area.

In conclusion he asked whether it would be possible for FDD to outline its policy and procedures in the handling of graphics materials on the USSR and Satellites.

The Chairman replied that such an outline already existed and could be provided to Army.

25X1 [redacted] CIA, also expressed interest in receiving a similar outline.

State: Mr. Lacey, with a view toward determining whether FDD manpower presently assigned to the Eastern Europe area could be utilized more effectively, inquired whether, in Mr. Bauer's opinion, any of the military subjects now being covered could be dropped, whether all were of the same priority, and whether there were any areas or subjects where reporting from other than press sources was providing adequate coverage.

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Army: Mr. Bauer replied that rather than limit G-2 requirements on Eastern Europe, he would much prefer to see manpower increased to satisfy such requirements. Reporting on para-military training, perhaps, did not hold as high a priority as information on order of battle, tactics, weapons and equipment, but para-military training was part of the picture and should not be disregarded. More detailed exploitation of editorials in the military publications was desirable to discern trends in training and tactics and even sports items, unpromising as it sounds, often contain valuable O/B information.

As for area coverage from other than press sources, Mr. Bauer said that some coverage could be afforded Bulgaria and Yugoslavia by attache's in Greece and Turkey, but the trend was rather to relieve attachés from translation work. Moreover, the attachés have been able to cover only a few central newspapers in any one of the Satellites, while FDD affords far greater coverage. Finally, FDD press exploitation provides military information that is unique and reliable, such as is not available from other sources.

State: Mr. Lacey said he had put the foregoing questions to determine relative priorities and where it might be possible to reallocate manpower. He wanted to be in a position to determine whether the military subjects as stated could not in any way be cut, and whether they all represented priority requirements, as the Committee was committed to determining that allocation of work effort was directed to absolute over-all priorities. He then asked Mr. Bauer what his feeling was with regard to collations.

Army: Mr. Bauer replied that collations were fine so long as there is sufficient manpower to prepare them. Under the circumstances, however, he believed that requesting collations would result in a constriction of coverage, and that G-2 would prefer to receive more items and perform its own analysis.

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[redacted] inquired whether the foregoing comments applied to the USSR program, to which Mr. Bauer said "No" and stated that the USSR program was quite adequate in coverage and depth.

Navy: Lt. Nyce stated that Navy was well satisfied with USSR coverage and found the FDD reporting invaluable, in that Navy could not depend too much on the Moscow attache's reporting.

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With regard to the satellites, Navy is in accord with Army in desiring exploitation in greater depth. Navy's requirements for information extend beyond purely naval matters to such subjects as merchant and fishing fleets, and naval attachés are not in a position to provide the unique information derived only through systematic press exploitation. The publications from coastal cities and ports yield information that is particularly valuable to Navy.

Navy, too, would like to have additional personnel allocated to Eastern Europe.

State: Mr. Lacey inquired whether Lt. Nyce felt that the coverage of the USSR area was such that in the interest of getting better coverage on the satellites there could be a transfer of manpower. Lt. Nyce did not.

Air: Maj. Neumann stated that the Air Force finds only a minor portion of the information published by FDD useful, but that portion is extremely good information. The Air Force, he said, is somewhat on the fence in debating the question of collation versus compilation. The Targets' analysts want single items, while those concerned with Estimates prefer collations. It is true, however, that any suggestion that a piece of information has undergone evaluation raises the suspicions of Air analysts. The information as currently presented is, in the main, satisfactory.

The FDD Research Aids have been particularly valuable and all components, and especially ATIC, want them continued.

AID has a smaller budget which necessitates some rearranging of the AID program. A particular attempt will be made to avoid duplication with FDD. A comprehensive study of AID, which may assist the coordination with FDD, is being prepared by [redacted] of CIA. 25X1

Before AID was operating, and the 1142nd and 7050th Air Squadrons were in existence, the Air attachés did almost all required translations. The attachés are still required to do some translation, but it is to be restricted to such information as is specifically required by the Embassy or the Command, or occasionally especially significant articles. It does not appear feasible to discontinue such translation and rely wholly on FDD.

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The 1142nd Squadron, which served as an interrogation and translation unit in Salzburg, has now been replaced by an attaché office. Most of the Squadron's personnel have gone over to the 7050th Squadron.

It is possible, once the study of the AID program has been completed, that the Air Force may request some changes in the FDD program.

3. The Chairman suggested that it might be advisable to review all areas before a Subcommittee decision is reached on the program of any one area. Mr. Lacey suggested that this would be a good procedure, but that he thought it important for the Committee to summarize its findings in each area before proceeding to the next.

All members agreed this should be done.

4. Agenda for the next meeting will be conclusion and summary of the USSR and East European satellites.

5. The 57th meeting adjourned at 1540 hours. The next meeting will be held in Room 2125 M Building at 1400 hours on 4 November 1955.

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